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(e) An extract from the report of the Research Health Officer who inspected the jail along with the Medical Officer of the jail, is placed on the table of the House [a].

Payment of compensation to a fisherman in the Fisheries Department at Dharmadam

* 2363 Q.—Sri K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri C. H. Kanaran): Will the Hon the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have paid any compensation to Umalil Usman, a fisherman, working under the Fisheries Department at Dharmadam, Malabar, who met with an accident during May 1954; and

(b) If so, the amount so disbursed?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) & (b) No compensation was given to the employee as the injury received by him was slight and the question of compensation did not arise.

Research section in the Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras

* 2364 Q.—Sri C. KANDASAMY (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have started any research section attached to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras; and

(b) if so, its monthly cost?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Fire accidents

* 2365 Q.—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a serious fire accident took place in Pullambadi, Tiruchirappalli district, during the first week of April 1955;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused by the fire; and

(c) the relief measures undertaken by the Government?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU: (a) Yes.

(b) Two hundred and ninety-seven houses and 52 cattle-sheds were destroyed. Three women died. Eight persons received severe burns. Twenty young goats with three kids and a dozen fowls were burnt alive. Sixty-six hay-ricks, valued at Rs. 8,000 and 50 dung-pits, valued at Rs. 2,000, were also destroyed. The victims lost their clothing, foodgrains which were to last for the whole year and unsold agricultural produce and agricultural implements. The total damage is estimated at Rs. 1,32,683.

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[a] Printed as Appendix on page 147 infra.

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(c) A free grant of Rs. 8,670 was given to 289 persons at the rate of Rs. 30 each for reconstructing their damaged houses. A sum of Rs. 3,000 was also sanctioned from the Cyclone Relief Fund for the purchase and distribution of handloom clothes to the needy victims. Milk powder received from the hospital was supplied to both adults and children. Fifty bags of rice received from some charitable persons in the neighbourhood were also distributed to the victims. Sarees and dhoties, etc., worth Rs. 1,000 were also bought for distribution from the funds collected from the local philanthropic persons and institutions. Action has also been taken by the local Revenue Officers for granting loans for re-building and repairing the burnt houses.

* 2366 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the relief given by the Government to the people who lost their homes in the fire accident at Rayapuram in May 1955;

(b) how many people were rendered homeless; and

(c) whether any permanent funds are placed at the disposal of the Collector of Madras apart from the Mayor's Relief Fund?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) (i) A sum of Rs. 570 was granted in cash by the Collector of Madras to the victims of the fire accident towards their immediate requirements of food, etc.;

(ii) a sum of Rs. 500 was given from the Madras State Cyclone Relief Fund for the purchase of handloom cloth, sarees, dhoties, towels, etc.; and

(iii) a sum of Rs. 500 was contributed by the Governor of Madras and Rs. 220 by the Corporation of Madras and the amounts were made available for the purchase of empty tar barrels to reconstruct the huts affected by the fire.

(b) Thirty-eight families consisting of 168 persons including children.

(c) No. No amount from the Mayor's Relief Fund was placed at the disposal of the Collector.

Grievances of workers in the electricity department

* 2367 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the grievances of the workers of the electricity department, contained in the petition presented through the Assembly during the Budget debate on the Electricity Demand on 16th March 1955, have been examined by the Government; and

(b) if so, what demands have been conceded?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) & (b) The Chief Engineer's report has been received. The matter is now under the consideration of the Government.